



Spy Pond Committee

Date: Tuesday, October 5th, 2021
Time: 7:30pm
Location: Teleconference

Minutes

Attendance: Brad Barber, Brian Battuello, Agnes O'Donnell, Steve Ricci, Stoker Rogovin, Bill Eykamp, Judi Berman, David Kaplan

Facilitator: Brad Barber
Minutes: Brian Battuello

1. Approve September minutes - Approved
2. Introductions

Three young swans were observed flying.

3. Rt. 2 path update

The path between Spy Pond and Rt. 2 is open for use, but it needs seeding. Brad contacted MassDOT and they said that they would be doing some landscaping.

4. Algae update

There is still a fair amount of algae. The secchi depth has improved from 1 to 3 feet. The algae is worse in the west corner near Rt. 2 and Pleasant Street.

5. A photo history of sandbar dredging

There is a photo log of the dredging at <http://www.qhull.org/spy/spy-index-211005.htm>. Bill and Brad provided commentary.

6. SWCA survey of Spy Pond, Sept. 23

Steve Johnson and Joel Harris (SWCA Environmental Consultants) spent September 23rd on Spy Pond. There was too much algae to do a full plant survey. They surveyed the perimeter with rake tosses and photos. They found many Asian clams, and fewer native clams than expected. They did not find aquatic plants. They performed water quality and algae sampling in the north basin and the deep hole of the west corner.

7. Tufts class on aquatic chemistry, Oct. 1

Professor John Durant and his class from Tufts did detailed water quality sampling of the north and south basins of Spy Pond. Durant has over ten years of data that need analysis.

8. Discussion of phosphorus management

Phosphorus is the key nutrient in pond management. In the shallow areas of Spy Pond (less than 8 feet), there is more muck than water. The muck contains far more phosphorus than the water. Brad discussed sources of phosphorus.

Discussion included Town policy changes for phosphorus management, Hills Pond, and natural solutions such as runoff areas, floating wetlands, and oyster farming in Maine.

9. New business

Brad mentioned complaints about fishing lines.

10. The next meeting will be November 2nd, 2021

11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.